

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1316

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, ENRG, MX

SUBJ: ALEJO HOPES FOR SURVIVAL

REF: MEXICO 10147, B. MEXICO 9983

1. THE FATE OF MEXICO'S SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY, FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO, AND HIS STRATEGY TO SURVIVE AT LEAST THROUGH THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION, WERE DISCUSSED RECENTLY BY EMBECONOFF AND SEPANAL OFFICIAL WHO IS CLOSE TO ALEJO (REFTEL A). ACCORDING TO MANUEL SUAREZ-MIER, ALEJO AND THE PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, JOSE LOPEZ-PORTILLO, ARE NOT CLOSE, AND INDEED LOPEZ-PORTILLO CONSIDERS ALEJO TO BE SOMEWHAT BRASH AND UNSYMPATHETIC (ANTIPATICO). THE CANDIDATE IS, HOWEVER, IMPRESSED BY ALEJO'S INTELLIGENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY.

2. THUS ALEJO'S STRATEGY HAS BEEN TO KEEP THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PROFILE (INDEED THE FACT THAT HE HAS BEEN ABROAD FOR MOST OF THE PAST MONTH IS A SIGN OF THIS) WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO MAKE POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ENERGY FIELD (REFTEL B). HE FEELS THAT AS HE WEEKS GO BY AND HE PROVES HIMSELF TO BEN APOLITICAL AND ABLE ADMINISTRATOR,
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THERE IS A DECREASING CHANCE THAT LOPEZ-PORTILLO WILL

ASK PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA THAT HE BE REPLACED. ALEJO'S
CHIEF WORRY AT THE MOMENT IS THE NEW MINERALS LAW,
WHICH IS HAVING TROUBLE IN CONGRESS (A VERY RARE EVENT
IN MEXICO*) AND IS THE SUBJECT OF INTENSIVE AND NEGATIVE
PRESSURES FROM THE PRESTIGIOUS CAMARA MINERA (NATIONAL
MINING CHAMBER). SUAREZ-MIER BELIEVES THAT IF HE MAINTAINS
HIS LOW PROFILE AND SURVIVES THE HEAR OF THE NEW MINERALS
LAW, ALEJO (WHO IS PRINCIPAL BACKER OF SELA WITHIN GOM,
SEE MEXICO 10049) HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF SERVING OUT HIS
TERM, AND, INDEED HAS SOME CHANCE OF AN IMPORTANT APPOINT-
MENT IN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION.

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Message Attributes

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